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**ABSTRACT** : PURPOSE:To uniformize the moisture content of an elastic film, to prevent the deterioration of a wafer holding accuracy and to polish the wafer in a high shape accuracy by providing a pipe line pressure control device for controlling the air pressure of the pipe line inside communicating to the hole of the elastic film in a wafer pressurizing plate.

**CONSTITUTION:**An air pressure inside a pipe line 3 communicating with the hole 2 group of an elastic film 1 in a wafer pressurizing plate 17 is controlled by a pipe line pressure control device 4. This air pressure is balanced with a polishing pressure, the flowout of the wafer impregnated in the elastic film 1 from the elastic film 1 is prevented and the moisture content of the elastic film 1 effected on the pressure distribution of a wafer polishing face is uniformized.

Accordingly, the holding accuracy of a wafer 21 is secured within 1μm, the polishing pressure is uniformized and the wafer 21 is polished in a high shape accuracy. In this case, the pipe line pressure control device 4 is equipped with a low air pressure setting unit 10 and a low pressure measurement control device 14 for controlling this unit 10 so that the air pressure of the pipe line 3 inside becomes in a set pressure.

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明 細 書

1. 発明の名称

研磨装置

2. 特許請求の範囲

1. ウエハ加圧プレートによりウエハを保持し、このウエハをポリシ定盤へ押圧するとともに、該ウエハと前記ポリシ定盤とを相対移動させることにより、該ウエハを研磨することができるものであり、

前記ウエハ加圧プレートは、前記盤の空孔を穿通した弾性部と、この弾性部の前記空孔部へ通過する管路とを有するものであり、

このウエハ加圧プレートの管路を介して、前記弾性部へ高圧水を供給することができる高圧水供給ユニットと、

前記ウエハ加圧プレートの管路を介して、ウエハを前記弾性部の反管路側の面へ噴流供給することができる高圧空気ユニットとを具備した研磨装置において、

ウエハ加圧プレートの管路内の空気を制御

することができる管路圧制御装置を設けたことを特徴とする研磨装置、

2. 管路圧制御装置は、

ウエハ加圧プレートの管路へ接続し、この管路へ高圧水を供給することができる高圧水供給ユニットと、

前記管路内の空気が予め設定した設定圧になるように、前記高圧水供給ユニットを制御することができる管路圧制御装置とを有する

ことを特徴とする請求項1記載の研磨装置、

3. 発明の用途な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は、ウエハ、たとえば半導体基盤用のSiウエハを研磨研削することができる研磨装置に係り、特に、前記ウエハを高い形状精度に研磨するに好適な研磨装置に関するものである、

(従来の技術)

従来、ウエハを研磨するための研磨装置として、空孔部を穿通した弾性部と、この弾性部の前

配管孔部へ通過する管路と、この管路を介して前記弾性膜へ給水を行う給水供給ユニットとを有し、前記管路からの真空吸引によって、フエハを、含水状態にある前記弾性膜へ吸着保持し、このフエハをポリシ定盤へ押圧しながら、フエハとポリシ定盤とを相対運動させることにより、そのフエハを研磨するようにしたものが知られている。

なお、この種の装置として製造するものには、たとえば実開明60-56461号公報が挙げられる。

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

上記従来技術は、フエハの研磨中における、弾性膜の含水量については配慮がされておらず、弾性膜に含浸していた水が、その空孔から管路側へ流出するという問題点があった。

このように、弾性膜から水が流出すると、弾性膜内での含水量分布が不均一になり、その結果、フエハ保持精度が劣化し、研磨圧力分布の不均一をもたらして、フエハの形状精度が低下するものであった。

することができる管路圧制御装置を設けたものである。

さらに詳しくは、弾性膜の空孔部へ通過している管路の空気圧を制御することにより、前記弾性膜の含水量の管路側への流出を防止することができるようにしたものである。

【作用】

弾性膜の空孔部へ通過する管路内の空気圧を、管路圧制御装置によって制御し、この空気圧を研磨圧力とバランスさせることにより、前記弾性膜に含浸していた水は、管路側へ流出することなく、管路内に均一に貯えられる。

したがって、フエハ保持精度の劣化を防止し、研磨圧力が均一になり、フエハを高い形状精度に研磨することができる。

【実施例】

以下、本発明を実施例によって説明する。

第1図は、本発明の第1の実施例に係る研磨装置を示す略示構成図、第2図は、第1図における低圧空気圧設定ユニットの詳細を示す側面図であ

る。本発明は、上記した従来技術の問題点を解決して、フエハ保持精度の劣化を防止し、フエハを高い形状精度に研磨することができる研磨装置の提供を、その目的とするものである。

【課題を解決するための手段】

上記問題点を解決するための、本発明に係る研磨装置の構成は、フエハ加工プレートによりフエハを保持し、このフエハをポリシ定盤へ押圧するとともに、該フエハと前記ポリシ定盤とを相対運動させることにより、該フエハを研磨することができるものであり、前記フエハ加工プレートは、研磨盤の空孔を穿設した弾性膜と、この弾性膜の前記空孔部へ通過する管路とを有するものであり、このフエハ加工プレートの管路を介して、前記弾性膜へ給水を行うことができる給水供給ユニットと、前記フエハ加工プレートの管路を介して、フエハを前記弾性膜の反管路側の面へ吸着保持することができる真空吸引ユニットとを具備した研磨装置において、

フエハ加工プレートの管路内の空気圧を制御す

る。

この研磨装置の構成を、第1図を用いて説明すると、これは、フエハ加工プレート17（詳細後述）によりフエハ21を保持し、このフエハ21をポリシ定盤（図示せず）へ押圧するとともに、該フエハ21と前記ポリシ定盤とを相対運動させることにより、該フエハ21を研磨することができる研磨装置であって、

前記フエハ加工プレート17は、研磨盤の空孔2を穿設した弾性膜1と、この弾性膜1の前記空孔2部へ通過する管路3とを有するものであり、

このフエハ加工プレート17の管路3を介して、前記弾性膜1へ給水を行うことができる給水ユニット16と、

前記フエハ加工プレート17の管路3を介して、フエハ21を前記弾性膜1の反管路側の面（第1図において下面）へ吸着保持することができる真空吸引ユニットと、

フエハ加工プレート17の管路3内の空気圧を制御することができる管路圧制御装置（詳細後述）

特開平2-243263 (3)

とを具備してなるものであり、

前記管路圧制御装置は、ウエハ加圧プレート17の管路3へ供給し、この管路3へ空気圧を供給することができる低圧空気圧設定ユニット10と、前記管路3内の空気圧が予め設定した設定圧になるように、前記低圧空気圧設定ユニット10を制御することができる低圧計測制御装置14とを有するものである。

以下、詳細に説明する。

特性図1の下面外周部には、ウエハ端面保持用のリング6が設けられている。

空気圧制御装置4は、弁7を設けた真空室ユニット8と、弁9を設けた低圧空気圧設定ユニット10（弁駆動部）と、弁11を設けた高圧空気圧ユニット12と、弁13を設けた低圧計測制御装置14とからなるものであり、各ユニットは、それぞれ弁7、9、11、13を介して管路3へ通過している。また、低圧計測制御装置14と低圧空気圧設定ユニット10とは、信号線14aで接続されている。

13が閉状態に、弁15が閉状態になり、純水供給ユニット16から管路3を経て特性図1へ純水が供給され、この特性図1が純水を含浸する。次に、弁9、11、13、15が閉状態に、弁7が開状態になり、真空室ユニット8によってウエハ21を吸引し、特性図1上のリング6内に設けられたウエハ21が吸着保持される。次に、弁7、9、11、13、15が開状態になり、ウエハ加圧プレート17が下降して、ウエハ21を前記ポリシ定盤上へ押しつけ、圧ウエハ21に研磨圧力を付加する。これと同時に、弁9、13が開状態になり、低圧空気圧設定ユニット10が作動する。そして、空気室18の容積がV<sub>1</sub>からV<sub>2</sub>へ変化する。

適度一定状態を達成した状態方程式により、 $P_1(V_1 + V_2) = P_2(V_1 + V_2)$ の関係が成立し、 $P_2 = \frac{V_1 + V_2}{V_1 + V_2} P_1$ となり、 $V_1 \rightarrow V_2$ の空気室容積変化が $P_1 \rightarrow P_2$ の管路圧力変化をもたらす。この管路圧力Pを計測制御装置14で計測し、設定圧力P<sub>0</sub>との差分を演算し、この差分が許容値を超えた場合には、駆動部20へ指令し、シリンダ19を動

一方、純水供給装置5は、純水供給ユニット16と弁15とからなり、純水供給ユニット16は弁15を介して管路3へ通過している。

ウエハ加圧プレート17は、表示していないポリシ定盤の上方にあり、このポリシ定盤中心に、表示していない研磨板供給機構が取り付けられている。

前記低圧空気圧設定ユニット10は、その詳細を図2図に示すものである。この図において、18は、ピストン19の上下動により、その容積が可変の空気室であり、前記ピストン19の駆動部20が、低圧計測制御装置14と信号線14aで接続している。

このように構成した研磨装置の動作を説明する。

低圧計測制御装置14に、管路3の設定圧P<sub>0</sub>を設定する（管路3の、容積はV<sub>0</sub>、初期圧力はP<sub>0</sub>である）。この設定圧P<sub>0</sub>は、特性図1内の含浸水に加入される研磨圧力とバランスする大きさ（一般に、0.01～1.0 kg/dm<sup>2</sup>の範囲）である。ここで研磨装置をONにすると、弁7、9、11、

作させて、V<sub>2</sub>を修正する。

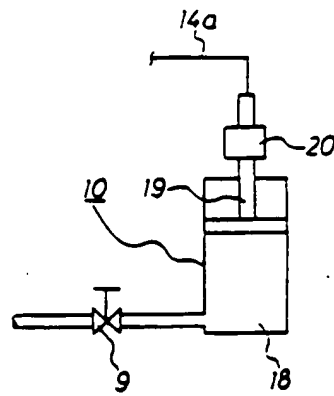
このようにして、管路3内の空気圧が常に設定圧P<sub>0</sub>になるように空気圧制御を行ないながら、前記研磨板供給機構から前記ポリシ定盤上へ研磨板を搬下し、ウエハ21とポリシ定盤とを用いて研磨させて、ウエハ21を表面研磨する。この研磨中、管路3の空気圧P<sub>0</sub>は研磨圧力と常にバランスしているため、特性図1の含浸水が管路3へ漏出することはない。

所定研磨時間終了後、弁9、13が開状態に、弁7が閉状態になり、真空室ユニット8が作動して、ウエハ21を特性図1に吸着保持する。そして、ウエハ加圧プレート17が上昇し、前記ポリシ定盤上から搬出する。弁7が開状態に、弁11が開状態になり、高圧空気圧ユニット12から管路3へ高圧空気（1.0～4.0 kg/dm<sup>2</sup>）を吹きだし、ウエハ21が特性図1から剥離してこの研磨プロセスを終了し、研磨装置がOFFになる。

以上説明した実施例によれば、研磨中、特性図1の空孔2へ通過する管路3の空気圧を設定圧P<sub>0</sub>、



図 2



Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Hei 2[1990]-243263

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JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE  
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POLISHING DEVICE

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[There are no amendments to this patent.]

### Claims

1. A polishing device, in which a wafer is held by a wafer pressurizing plate, with said wafer capable of being polished by pressurizing said wafer onto a polishing surface plate as well as by oscillating said wafer relative to the aforementioned polishing surface plate,

with the aforementioned wafer pressurizing plate being equipped with an elastic film in which multiple holes are formed along with a pipeline that communicates with the aforementioned group of holes in said elastic film,

and being equipped with a pure-water supply unit, that can supply pure water to the aforementioned elastic film through the pipeline in said wafer pressurizing plate,

and a vacuum source unit, that can adsorb and hold the wafer onto the surface of the aforementioned elastic film at the opposite side of the pipeline through the pipeline of the aforementioned wafer pressurizing plate,

characterized by being equipped with a pipeline pressure controlling device, that can control the air pressure within the pipeline in the wafer pressurizing plate.

2. The polishing device described in Claim 1, characterized by the pipeline pressure controlling device being equipped with

a low-air-pressure setting unit connected to the pipeline of the wafer pressuring plate and that can supply air pressure to said pipeline,

and a low-pressure measurement controlling device, that can control the aforementioned low-air-pressure setting unit so that the air pressure within the aforementioned pipeline is set at a preset level.

## Detailed explanation of the invention

### Industrial application field

The present invention concerns a polishing device that can polish wafers, such as a Si wafer for a semiconductor substrate, for example, into a mirror face. It particularly concerns a polishing device that is suitable for polishing the aforementioned wafer with a high shape accuracy.

### Prior art

As an existing polishing device that polishes wafers, one is known that is equipped with an elastic film, in which a group of holes is formed, a pipeline that communicates with the aforementioned group of holes in said elastic film, and a pure-water supply unit, that supplies pure water to the aforementioned elastic film through said pipeline, with the wafer being polished by adsorbing and holding the wafer in a water-impregnated condition onto the aforementioned elastic film through vacuum suction from the aforementioned pipeline and by obtaining relative oscillations between the wafer and the polishing surface plate while pressurizing said wafer against the polishing surface plate.

As a device related to this type, one in the official report for Japanese Kokai Utility Model Sho 60[1985]-56461, for example, can be listed.

Problem to be solved by the invention

The moisture content in the elastic film during the polishing of a wafer was not considered in the aforementioned prior art, and there was the problem of the water that impregnated the elastic film flowing out towards the pipeline from the holes.

As water flows out from the elastic film in this way, the moisture content distribution within the elastic film becomes nonuniform; as a result, the wafer-holding accuracy deteriorates, which brings about a nonuniformity in the polishing pressure distribution, decreasing the wafer shape accuracy.

The aim of the present invention is to offer a polishing device in which the aforementioned problem in the prior art is solved, and with which a wafer can be polished with high shape accuracy while preventing deterioration of the wafer holding accuracy.

■

Means for solving the problem

In the structure of the polishing device of the present invention, in which the aforementioned problem is solved, a wafer is held by a wafer pressurizing plate; said wafer can be polished by pressurizing said wafer onto a polishing surface plate as well as by oscillating said wafer relative to the aforementioned polishing surface plate. The aforementioned wafer pressurizing plate is equipped with an elastic film, in which multiple holes are formed, along with a pipeline that communicates with the aforementioned group of holes in said elastic film. A polishing device equipped with a pure-water supply unit that can supply

pure water to the aforementioned elastic film through the pipeline in said wafer pressurizing plate, along with a vacuum source unit that can adsorb and hold the wafer onto the surface of the aforementioned elastic film at the opposite side of the pipeline through the pipeline of the aforementioned wafer pressurizing plate,

is equipped with a pipeline pressure controlling device that can control the air pressure within the pipeline of the aforementioned wafer pressurizing plate.

To explain in more detail, an outflow of the impregnating water in the aforementioned elastic film towards the pipeline can be prevented by controlling the air pressure within the pipeline, which communicates with the group of holes in the elastic film.

#### Function

Water that impregnates the aforementioned elastic film does not flow out towards the pipeline, but is uniformly stored within said film by controlling the air pressure within the pipeline, which communicates with the group of holes in the elastic film by the pipeline pressure controlling device and by attaining a balance between this air pressure and the polishing pressure.

Accordingly, deterioration in the wafer-holding accuracy can be prevented, the polishing pressure becomes uniform, and a wafer can be polished with a high shape accuracy.

#### Application examples

Application examples of the present invention will be explained below.

Figure 1 is a schematic structural diagram that illustrates the polishing device in Application Example 1 of the present invention. Figure 2 is a cross-sectional diagram that illustrates a detailed low-air-pressure setting unit in Figure 1.

An outline of this polishing device will be explained using Figure 1. It is a polishing device in which a wafer (21) is held by a wafer pressurizing plate (17) (details will be described later); said wafer (21) can be polished by pressurizing said wafer (21) onto a polishing surface plate (not illustrated) as well as by oscillating said wafer (21) relative to the aforementioned polishing surface plate,

the aforementioned wafer pressurizing plate (17) is equipped with an elastic film (1), in which multiple holes (2) are formed, and a pipeline (3), that communicates with the aforementioned group of holes (2) in the said elastic film (1).

It is equipped with a pure-water unit (16), that can supply pure water to the aforementioned elastic film (1) through the pipeline (3) of said wafer pressurizing plate (17),

a vacuum source unit (8) that can adsorb and hold the wafer (21) onto the surface of the aforementioned elastic film (1) at the opposite side of the pipeline (lower face in Figure 1) through the pipeline (3) of the aforementioned wafer pressurizing plate (17),

and a pipeline pressure controlling device (details will be described later) that can control the air pressure within the pipeline (3) of the wafer pressurizing plate (17),

with the aforementioned pipeline pressure controlling device being equipped with a low-air-pressure setting unit (10) that is connected to the pipeline (3) of the wafer pressurizing plate (17) and that can supply air pressure to said pipeline (3), along

with a low-pressure measurement controlling device (14) that can control the aforementioned low-air-pressure setting unit (10) so that the air pressure within the aforementioned pipeline (3) can be set at a preset pressure.

This will be explained in detail below.

A ring (6) that holds the edge faces of the wafer is attached at the outer circumferential area at the bottom face of the elastic film (1).

The air-pressure controlling device (4) is constructed of a vacuum source unit (8) provided with a valve (7), a low-air-pressure setting unit (10) provided with a valve (9) (details will be described later), a high-air-pressure source unit (12) provided with a valve (11), and a low pressure measurement controlling device (14) provided with a valve (13); each of the units communicates with the pipeline (3) through respective valves (7), (9), (11), and (13). Also, the low-pressure measurement controlling device (14) is connected to the low-air-pressure setting unit (10) by a signal line (14a).

On the other hand, the pure-water supply device (5) consists of a pure-water supply unit (16) and a valve (15); the pure-water supply unit (16) communicates with the pipeline (3) through the valve (15).

The wafer pressurizing plate (17) is positioned above a polishing surface plate, which is not illustrated; a polishing-solution supply mechanism, which is not illustrated, is attached at the center of said polishing surface plate.

The aforementioned low-air-pressure setting unit (10) is illustrated in detail in Figure 2. In this diagram, (18) is an air chamber with a variable capacity [obtained] through a vertical motion of a piston (19). A driving unit (20) for the



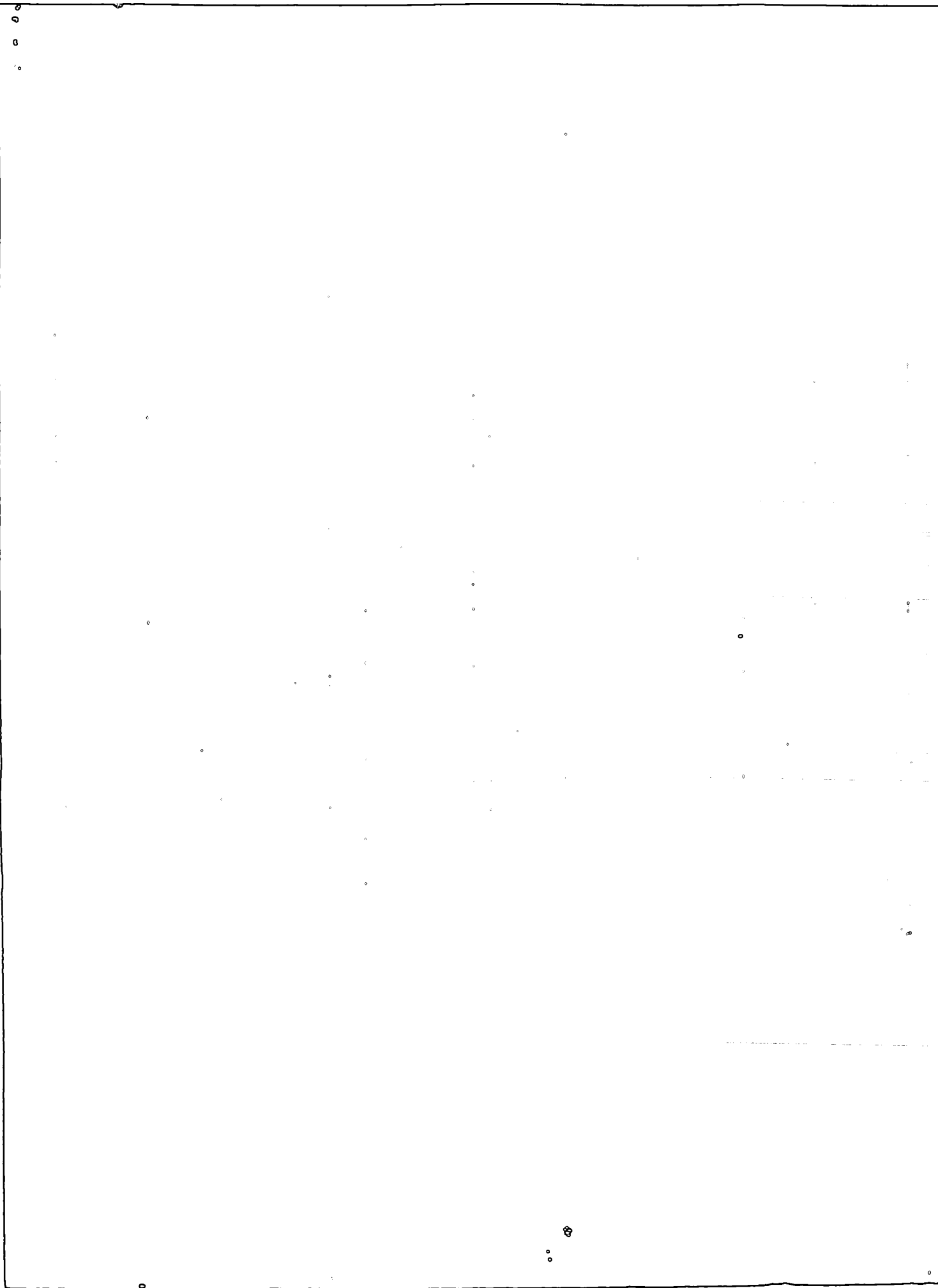
aforementioned piston (19) is connected with the low-pressure measurement controlling device (14) by the signal line (14a).

The operation of the polishing device constructed in this manner will be explained.

The set pressure  $P_1$  of the pipe (3) is set at the low-pressure measurement controlling device (14) (the capacity and the initial pressure of the pipeline (3) are  $V_0$  and  $P_0$ ). This set pressure  $P_1$  is at a level that balances with the polishing pressure, which is applied to the water that impregnates the elastic film (1) (generally within a range of 0.01-1.0 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> gauge).

As the polishing device is turned ON here, the valves (7), (9), (11), and (13) are in the closed state and the valve (15) is in the open state, then pure water is supplied to the elastic film (1) from the pure-water supply unit (16) by way of the pipeline (3), and said elastic film (1) is impregnated with pure water. Next, the valves (9), (11), (13), and (15) are in the closed state, the valve (7) is in the open state, the wafer (21) is sucked by the vacuum source unit (8), and said wafer (21) is adsorbed and held within the ring (6) over the elastic film (1). Next, the valves (7), (9), (11), (13), and (15) are in the closed state, the wafer pressurizing plate (17) descends and presses the wafer (21) onto the aforementioned polishing surface plate, and polishing pressure is applied to said wafer (21). At the same time, the valves (9) and (13) are in the open state, and the low-air-pressure-setting unit (10) is actuated. The capacity of the air chamber (18) then changes from  $V_1$  to  $V_2$ .

The relation of  $P_0 (V_0 + V_1) = P (V_0 + V_2)$  is established by an equation of state in which a constant temperature level is assumed,  $P = V_0 + V_1/V_0 + V_2 P_0$  is obtained, and the change in



pipeline (3) can be prevented by controlling the air pressure within the pipeline (3), which communicates with the holes (2) in the elastic film (1) to reach the set pressure  $P_1$  during polishing, and the amount of water that impregnates the elastic film (1) can be made uniform. Accordingly, there is the effect of improving the holding accuracy of said wafer (21) and improving the shape accuracy of the wafer (21) when the polishing pressure distribution within the polishing surface becomes uniform.

A case in which polishing is obtained while maintaining a constant polishing pressure was explained in the aforementioned application example. However, when applying this to a polishing method in which the polishing pressure is adjusted like the primary pressure, secondary pressure and the setting pressure within the pipeline (3) can be correspondingly adjusted like  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$ , ...

A case was explained in the aforementioned application example in which the outflow of the impregnating water within the elastic film (1) towards the pipeline (3) was prevented. However, an outflow towards the ring (6) can also be prevented, and the same effect can be displayed.

Next, Application Example 2 will be explained.

The change in the capacity in the air chamber (18) of the low-air-pressure setting unit (10) was utilized in the aforementioned Application Example 1 as the pressure controlling method for the pipeline (3) of the wafer pressurizing plate (17). However, in the present Application Example 2, a heater (not illustrated) is embedded around the pipeline (3); it has a structure in which the temperature change of the air within the pipe (3) through heating by this heater can be utilized.

In this way, the set pressure  $P_1$  of the pipeline (3) in the structure is set (the initial pressure and the initial temperature of the pipeline (3) are  $P_0$  and  $T_0$  (K)).

As the polishing device is turned ON here, the aforementioned heater is also turned ON, the air within the pipeline (3) is heated, the temperature changes from  $T_0 \rightarrow T_1$ , and the pressure within the pipe changes from  $P_0 \rightarrow (T_1/T_0)P_0 = P$ . The difference between this pipeline pressure  $P$  and the set pressure  $P_1$  is calculated. When this difference exceeds an allowable value, the aforementioned heater is instructed to control the air pressure within the pipeline (3) to constantly maintain the set pressure of  $P_1$ .

The amount of water impregnating the elastic film (1) can also be made uniform in this application example.

#### Effect of the invention

As explained in detail above, the air pressure within the pipeline, which communicates with the holes in the elastic film, is controlled in the present invention. Therefore, an outflow of water that impregnates the aforementioned elastic film from said elastic film can be prevented, and the content of water in the elastic film, which affects the pressure distribution at the wafer polishing surface, can be made uniform. In this way, the wafer holding accuracy of within  $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  can be secured, and the shape accuracy of the polished wafer can be within  $2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ . Therefore, there is the effect of manufacturing wafers that are highly flat.

To summarize, a polishing device can be offered in which the deterioration in the wafer holding accuracy is prevented, and a wafer can be polished with a high shape accuracy.

Brief description of the figures

Figure 1 is a schematic structural diagram that illustrates a polishing device in Application Example 1 of the present invention. Figure 2 is a cross-sectional diagram that illustrates a detailed low-air-pressure setting unit in Figure 1.

1...elastic film, 2...hole, 3...pipeline, 8...vacuum source unit, 10...low-air-pressure setting unit, 14...low-pressure measurement controlling device, 16...pure-water supply unit, 17...wafer pressurizing plate, and 21...wafer.

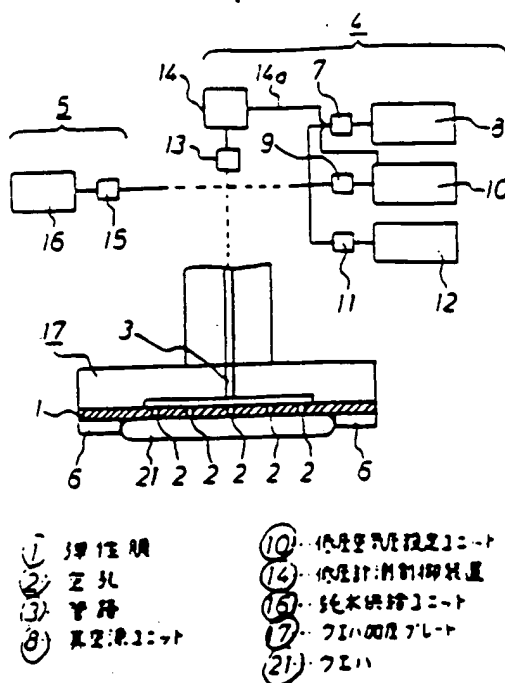


Figure 1

- Key: 1 Elastic film  
2 Holes  
3 Pipeline  
8 Vacuum source unit  
10 Low-air-pressure setting unit  
14 Low-pressure measurement controlling device.  
16 Pure-water supply unit  
17 Wafer pressurizing plate  
21 Wafer

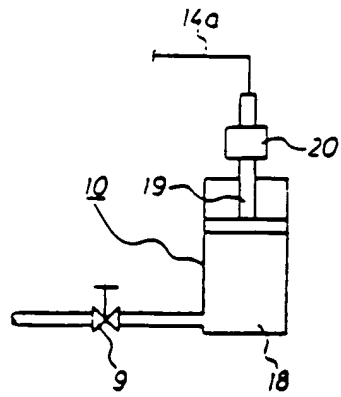


Figure 2